**The Mayans**

**Mayans had a complex civilization with cities, learning and a written language because**:

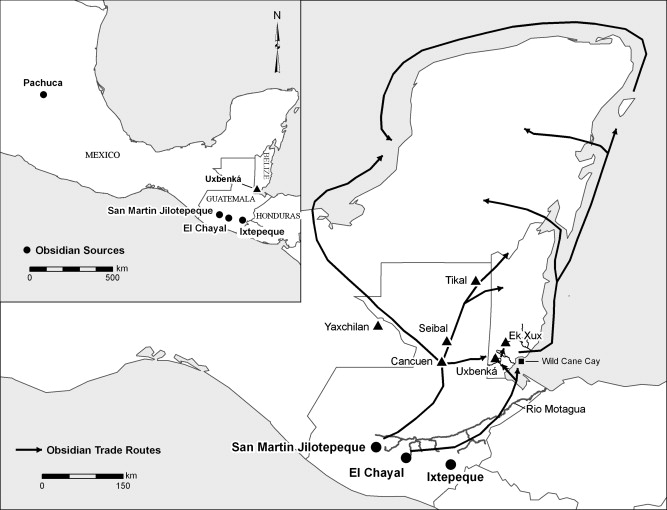
1. Farmers were successful so people had more free time to learn new skills (like math and astronomy).

2. Waterholes with large amounts of limestone allowed strong city buildings to be built by the rich.

3. Village leaders grew powerful because of taxes on trading chocolate, salt, obsidian, maize corn etc.

They used this money to build armies and fight other cities and get tribute.

**Mayan geography: major Mayan city-states, road systems and sea routes**

****Important features of Mayan society**.

A. Mayans depended heavily on trade, did not have good roads, but relied on sea trade routes.

Grew corn, honey, salt, cotton, cocoa and other products to trade. Cocoa beans = money.

B. Mayan women rose before dawn, lit a fire and prepared ground corn into tortillas for the

day’s meals. Women also cared for family’s animals like ducks and turkeys.

C. Mayan fathers and sons ate their morning meal and went to work in the farm fields or hunted.

Babies had ceremony where tools they would use in adulthood were put in their hands.

**Mayan art**

A. Maya Ruler had large jade or gold necklaces and tall hats quetzal feathers, usually seated

B. Maya nobles and priests had jewelry, capes and luxury clothing, holding staffs

C. Maya commoners had a loin cloth only to cover their waist and hips, tattoos

**Mayan government and social classes**

A. The halach uinic (“true man”) ruled the city-state and decided when to go to war.

He was considered a god-king and when he died his son or male relative took over.

B. Nobles and priests only knew how to read and write; wealthy farmers, served as scribes and oversaw

government operations: gathered taxes and ordered construction of temple-pyramids.

C. Mayan artisans made murals of Mayan life, battles, etc. and painted books to honor their gods.

D. Commoners worked the land, growing corn, beans etc. Built temple pyramids and fought as soldiers.

E. Slaves were born as slaves or were enemy soldiers captured in battle were made into slaves.

**Mayan religion and ceremonial games**

A. All their cities were built with religious temple-pyramids in the center. Mayans were polytheistic

(believed in many gods), most gods were in nature (like the rain or wind) and affected life.

B. Priests performed human sacrifices and thought animal or human blood made their gods strong.

C. The Mayans math allowed creation of two calendars: religious and daily life.

D. Each day represented a god and the combination of this god and the day of the week was good or bad.

K. The Mayans’ ball game called pok-a-tok: players tried to hit a solid rubber ball through a stone ring

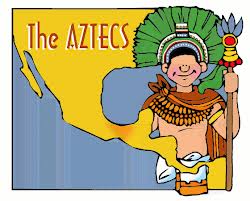
by using elbows, wrists and hips. Losing team sacrificed to the gods. All Mayans watched.

**Structure and purposes of Mayan pyramids**

A. Pyramids sides lined up with the compass points. Steps with glyphs carved in them, temples on flat

tops where priests prayed, sacrificed or stargazed. Inside temples, nobles and rulers were buried.

**Mayans declined because**: 1. Crop failures. 2. Rulers mistreated the commoners. 3. Constant war.

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**Triple Alliance geography**

The Triple Alliance was the Aztec Empire. Three city-states made up the alliance: Tenochtitlan, the

most powerful, Texcoco and Tlacopan. This all grew up around Lake Texcoco in central Mexico.

**Key examples of urban planning at Tenochtitlan.**

A. Tenochtitlan was one of the world’s largest cities, and built on an island in Lake Texcoco.

Separated from land by wooden bridges that were taken up at night. Wide streets, markets, aqueducts.

B. It was organized into districts and zones. Symmetrical grid pattern. It had two zoos and an aquarium.

C. Very clean: Garbage collected twice a day. Trumpets sounded six times a day to signal time.

E. In city center was a ceremonial plaza. Religious festivals and sacrifices on pyramids.

The nobles lived around this plaza. Four wide avenues were built to the Great Temple.

Three causeways and an aqueduct linked the island to the mainland.

**Triple Alliance religious beliefs and the role of human sacrifice**

Aztecs were polytheistic but their two most important gods were the sun god and rain god. Each had a temple on top of the Templo Mayor pyramid in the center of Tenochtitlan. Enemy prisoners were sacrificed to the sun god to give him strength to rise each day.

**Describe economy and government of the Aztec Triple Alliance**

A. The Aztecs had a large urban population to feed so trading food and products were essential.

B. Triple Alliance kept good roads since everything had to be carried by hand from far away.

C. Tribute could be given by working for a noble, or in goods/products.

D. Aztec gov. was run by the Aztec Emperor in Tenochtitlan, nobles in Tlacopan and Texcoco. E. The conquered people ran their own affairs but had to pay tribute to the Aztec leaders.

F. Merchants sold items such as jade, feathers, gold, turquoise, animal skins, clothing, pottery,

chocolate, vanilla, slaves. Cacao beans were used like money to buy and trade for products.

G. City-states paid taxes in: food, cacao, gems, cotton, cloth animals, or even soldiers.

Essential Questions

1. Who were the Maya?
2. Why did their society rise and fall?
3. Who were the Aztecs? How did geography shape their society?
4. Who were the Inca? How did geography shape their society?
5. What similarities and differences existed among the Mayan, Aztec, and Inca civilizations?
6. How does geography influence social-cultural, political and economic development?
7. What does a civilization need to be “advanced”?

**The Incas **

**Inca Empire’s relationship between geography and how it developed.**

A. Inca empire was the largest in the world stretching 3000 miles from present day Columbia to Chile.

B. Inca capital city was Cuzco, high in the mountains of Chile.

C. Developed a system of trading different goods from different regions called the vertical economy.

From mountains: Llamas and alpacas for wool and meat. From hills: corn, potatoes and quinoa

Fish from sea coast

D. Small communities sprang up in these isolated areas which specialized in only a few things.

E. The Inca Empire’s mix of closeness to the sea, hills and mountains made it possible to conquer more

land, but mostly just a thin line down South America.

**Structure of the Inca government**

A. Sapa Inca was the emperor who ruled and owned the whole empire and everything in it. His gov.

collected hefty food taxes and in return distributed food to the people.

B. Nobles: highest Capac Incas royal governors of the four corners of empire, Huaha Incas ran smaller

sections of each corner, and curacas Incas oversaw the ayllu (farming villages) and organized mit’a

(public duty work). Curacas were responsible to see ayllu paid crop taxes and public works.

C. Commoners: worked in ayllu on farms and build roads, dams and cities

D. The Incas did not use money, but bartered products or labor. Didn’t own land or even selves.

E. Commoner/peasants farmed on their “share” of the land, but they also had to work on shares

that the government or priests ate from.

F. 1/3 of commoner products went to the Sapa Inca, 1/3 to the priests and 1/3 kept for selves.

G. The mit’a system made commoners leave their ayllu and work on government farms, mines,

or be soldiers. While they made dams, cities and roads, they were given food, but no pay.

**Structure of the Inca society and everyday life**

A. The Inca empire numbered around 10 million people. They did not have writing but used the quipu,

a system of colored strings and knots. The Inca ate fish, potatoes, corn, tomatoes, quinoa, llama etc. B. The Inca army conquered new territory and offered enemies a choice to obey the Sapa Inca or die.

**Inca religious beliefs**

A. Polytheistic: god for the sun, female goddess for earth. Inca tried to keep gods happy with daily corn

sacrifice, and regular llama sacrifice. In disaster and twice a year Chosen Women were sacrificed.

B. Temple of the sun god in Cuzco. When Incan emperors died they were mummified and their

mummies brought out for religious ceremonies over the years.

**Andean cities and key examples of urban planning**

A. Major paved roads ran in and out of the city. Incan cities were relatively small; most people lived

outside of them and traveled to them for special occasions.

B. City had central plaza surrounded by walls covered in gold; its floor was sand, raked daily by workers.

C. High stone walls and temples built without mortar to keep the stones of the city’s buildings together.

D. Cuzco means the belly-button of the world.